Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04038 241355Z ACTION NEA-10

O R 241322Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2151 INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 4038

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: EMBASSY RESPONSE TO AL HAMISHMAR STORY ON PRIME MINISTER BEG IN

1. TODAY'S MEDIA REACTION CABLE DESCRIBES LOCAL PRESS COMMENT ON STORY FIRST REPORTED ON ISRAEL RADIO LAST NIGHT THAT A SENIOR US "PERSONALITY HAS TOLD A SENIOR ISRAEL "PERSONALITY" THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED IF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO SUCCEED. TODAY, (MARCH 24) AL HAMISHMAR, IN SHORT, PAGE ONE ARTICLE, SAYS THAT WHILE ISRAELI RADIO ATTRIBUTED THE ALLEGED STATEMENT TO A US SOURCE IN AMERICA ".......IT WOULD SEEM THAT REFERENCE IS TO AN AMERICAN SOURCE SERVING IN ISRAEL, WHO MADE THIS STATEMENT TO A KNESSET MEMBER OF THE LABOUR PARTY THREE DAYS AGO." THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO NOTE THAT "...IN THE ABSENCE OF US AMBASSADOR LEWIS, WHO IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY, THE US SENIOR OFFICIAL IN ISRAEL IS THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRS OF THE US EMBASSY, RICHARD VIETS".

2. PAO CALLED AL HAMISHMAR STORY'S AUTHOR, DALIA SCHORY, TO INFORM HER THAT IMPLICATION THAT CHARGE WAS SOURCE OF STORY WAS INCORRECT, THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY KNESSET LABOR MEMBER IN THE LAST THREE DAYS AND THAT NO OTHER EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAD MADE SUCH A STATEMENT EITHER. UNCLASSIFIED

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3. EMBASSY HAS MADE SIMILAR RESPONSE TO REUTERS QUERY. VIETS

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, PEACE PLANS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS

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